

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

In one implementation, the porous silica particles include silicalite crystals or nanocrystals. Preparation of silicalite crystals and preparation of low k films including silicalite crystals are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,329,062 and in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 6,533,855 ~~09/782,985~~, both of which are assigned to the assignee of the present invention and incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

Silicalite is typically produced in aqueous solution, typically basic aqueous solution, which is a disadvantageous medium for many binders. However, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 6,533,855 ~~09/752,985~~ discloses procedures for dispersing silicalite and other zeolites in nonpolar solvents. For example, the surfaces of the nanocrystals may be treated with an amine or other coating to prevent agglomeration in the organic solvent. Some implementations use colloidal dispersions of silicalites in nonpolar solvents